

Parents/Carers

Here at Rainbow Nursery, we strive to ensure that our children and families receive the highest standard of care and practice. As you are aware the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in some changes with the nursery settings daily policies, procedures, and practices. Last year, at the beginning of the pandemic, we reviewed all our policies making additional changes where COVID-19 had impacted that particular policy or procedure. We are now almost a year down the line and again we are undertaking our reviewing process. We would like to inform you of a new policy entitled '**Medication and Illness Policy**'. This replaces both the existing Sickness and Illness policy and the Medication policy.

Please follow the link to read the policy in full on the nursery website, below are some main examples of how the changes made last year due to COVID-19 has impacted permanent changes to our Policy and Procedure going forwards.

- We ask every parent at drop off if their child has had any medication that day prior to arrival at nursery, this is recorded on the register. No child will be accepted into our care if they have been given paracetamol or ibuprofen 6 hours prior to them attending nursery, this is due to medication masking illnesses.
- If a child develops a temperature of **37.8°C** or over during the day at nursery a 10 day exclusion period is required unless an alternative medical diagnosis is provided by a doctor or a negative COVID-19 test is confirmed. The child will be placed into isolation, parents will be informed that they need to collect their child **immediately**. If the child's Parents/Carers cannot be contacted and the child's temperature is rising rapidly, to a dangerous level that may result in a convulsion, the decision to administer Paracetamol Suspension is at the discretion of a Nursery Manager.
- Paracetamol Suspension will only be given in the instance that a child develops a temperature whilst at nursery and we are awaiting a parent to collect their child (see above) - in this instance Rainbow Nursery will provide the Paracetamol Suspension - specifically **Calpol** brand. If a child is allergic to this brand, the parent must provide an alternative Paracetamol Suspension to be kept at nursery. Paracetamol Suspension (Calpol) will only be administered if a child has a high temperature, we will not administer this medication for any other reason unless it has been prescribed by a doctor within the last 7 days.
- If a child is deemed to be at a **higher risk** of having an allergic reaction or getting a high temperature, we will ask for additional written approval from a parent/carer for medication to be administered.
- Positive test results for COVID -19 must be reported to the nursery immediately. Advice would be taken regarding isolation of others from the Department for Education and Health Protection Team. Ofsted would also be notified of any positive cases, staff or children.

- We will only administer medication when absolutely necessary. We encourage medication to be given at home whenever possible and have the right to refuse the administration of any medication. If a child requires prescription medicine during their day at nursery, we can administer this with consent from a child's Parent/Carer sourced from a completed medication form, which can be accessed on the nursery website.
- Toys and equipment in the nursery are thoroughly cleaned after each use or put into 'isolation' for 72 hours to reduce the risk of the illness spreading.
- In the case of a pandemic affecting a child or practitioners within the nursery we will take advice from the Health Protection Agency and our Local Council. This may result in the nursery being closed. Full fees will still be required if the nursery is to close due to a pandemic. Parents/Carers and OFSTED will be kept informed at all times.
- It is possible for us to administer antihistamine/allergy relief to children, however this must first be discussed and agreed with the nursery manager prior to us doing so. - Antihistamine is kept in the nursery for emergency use. This is '**Piriton**' brand.

Over the coming weeks, if your child has Paracetamol suspension (Calpol) that is in date at nursery this will be returned to you by a nursery practitioner. Any out-of-date Paracetamol Suspension will be disposed of appropriately. Please inform us if your child cannot be administered the brand of Calpol.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.